

TO: Summit County Board of Health
Scott Vargo
Jeff Huntley
FROM: Sara R Lopez
RE: BOCC and BOH Joint Work Session of September 21, 2021
DATE: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 @12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Elected Officials: Elisabeth Lawrence, Tamara Pogue and Josh Blanchard– Commissioners

Staff: Scott Vargo, County Manager; Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Molly Boyd, Human Resources Director; Amy Wineland, Public Health Director; Brian Bovaird, Emergency Operations Director; Nicole Valentine, Communications Director; David Reynolds, Assistant Finance Director; Adam Kiesel, Public Affairs Coordinator; Michael Wurzel, Sustainability Coordinator; April Paige, Executive Administrator Manager and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests (in person or via Zoom): Andrew Pappas, Blair McGary, Joan Jardon, Peter Siegel, Peyton Rogers, Phil Lindeman, Shianne Elliott, Jenna deJong and others who did not sign in.

I. Standing Agenda Items/Updates

Public Health Director Updates

i. Local and Regional/State COVID Case and Hospitalization Statistics and Trends

Amy Wineland gave an overview of the latest case data with cases, hospitalizations and deaths. The Delta variant continues to be the dominant strain in cases across the state. The state has announced that we are currently in our 5th wave with almost every county in Colorado considered to be a High Level rate. At this point, the state has not intervened in any county but this could change if the number of hospitalizations increase dramatically.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has reported that 743 of hospitalized cases in the state are unvaccinated individuals, and 147 cases are vaccinated individuals. The cost for hospitalizations among unvaccinated adults for the last three months is \$5.7 billion.

Summit County continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates at almost 92%. The local cases are starting to go down which is great news for the county; this is related to the end of the peak season as the number of visitors has decreased. The positive rate has peaked around 5% and hospital capacity continues to stay at a manageable level.

Ms. Wineland gave an overview of the CDPHE information on school districts, and the difference in the number of cases between districts not requiring masks in schools vs those that do require them. There have been discussions regarding the safety of masks for kids and whether it affects their breathing or development but there is no evidence that this is the case. The final decision should be between the parent and health care provider, on an individual basis. Ms. Wineland noted the amount of misinformation regarding not only masks but vaccines and directed the community to the county website where they can find reputable information regarding these topics.

Ms. Wineland gave an overview of the vaccine rates for students at the Middle School, High School and Peak School, and 57% of eligible students have been vaccinated. She noted how important it is for all eligible students 12 and older to get vaccinated.

She also encouraged everyone to attend a Facebook Community Event on September 29, 2021 from 5-6pm called *Champions for Vaccine Equity* that will provide information of interest on topics such as vaccine allocation, vaccine safety and effectiveness, etc. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/SummitCountyGov/>

Local Testing Statistics and Program Update

The Summit School District will be participating in the state's rapid testing program, which is great news. The schools are working on ways to get students registered and tested.

To find a testing location or to register for a test please visit:

<https://www.summitcountyco.gov/1324/Testing>

ii. Vaccine Distribution Update

Ms. Wineland gave an update on vaccine boosters for moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals. The Public Health Department will now be holding vaccination clinics at the schools in the afternoons and evenings for everyone in the community, not just students; walk-ins are welcome. Masks are required indoors. The new vaccination schedule can be found at: <https://www.summitcountyco.gov/1423/Scheduling-Vaccinations>

Amy Wineland noted the importance of also getting a flu shot and noted that people can get their flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time.

iii. Transmission Trends

CTT Trends

- Increasing occurrence of refusals to be interviewed by the contact tracing team. Some people refuse to get information on their dates of quarantine and isolation.
- 20's, 30's and 60's highest case contributors this month.
- Household, personal gatherings and community exposures are the most frequently stated this month.
- Continued frustration with test turnaround time and rapid testing availability.

Cases in June = 23 Confirmed

Cases in July = 194 Confirmed (>8 times the case volume as June)

Cases in August = 329

Cases from September 9/1/21 – 9/20/21 = 160

- 0-11: 20
- 12-19: 8
- <18: 28
- 20's: 31 (19.4%)
- 30's: 37 (23.1%)
- 40's: 21
- 50's: 12
- 60's+: 31 (19.4%)

Public Health Order Update

No changes to the current order. It will be extended through October 31, 2021.

Communications Update and Discussion

The communications department has been communicating with the public regarding closures of test sites.

Adam Kislier shared that vaccination clinics from now to mid-October are listed on the website. They will also be updating information on Booster doses including who is eligible for those. He also noted that many people are nervous about losing their vaccination card. The Public Health Department can reprint one for anyone who has lost theirs. The state is also encouraging individuals to download the *myColorado* Mobile App to store their COVID-19 vaccination record, driver's license, etc.

Emergency Management Update

Sarah Vaine commended the Emergency Operations team for doing a great job conducting site visits at the schools in preparations for the upcoming vaccination clinics.

II. Critical Topics Not Covered Above

Commissioner Lawrence said she has heard from business owners asking if the county will put out a mandate requiring for masks to be worn indoors. Ms. Wineland said at this point there are no plans for a mandate, unless the state decides to do it. For now, it is up to each individual business to require them.

Ms. Vaine asked if the county could provide continuous information to the community to combat the misinformation running rampant in social media. Commissioner Blanchard asked about the biggest influencer for those individuals currently being vaccinated. Ms. Wineland said that many are being required by their work, but most are being asked by their families. They want to visit family members who might be at risk or need to have it before traveling. Others are getting it because they have to attend concerts and the venues are requiring proof of vaccination. She asked families and friends to

have a one-on-one conversation with an individual who has not been vaccinated. Nicole Valentine suggested input from a trusted family practitioner could also influence their decision.

III. Open BOH/BOCC Discussion, As Needed

Summit County's Public Health Orders and latest information is available at www.summitcountyco.gov. Click on *Get COVID-19 Info and Updates*.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:


Sara R. Lopez, Deputy Clerk


Established 1861


Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair